

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A method of buying back goods, comprising steps of:

at a sales center, designating a buy-back center to a user that has purchased goods that are a targeted item;

at said buy-back center, directing said user to enter as input the order number of the goods that were purchased through said sales center at a Website on a network and accepting an application for buy-back of a used item; and

at said buy-back center, having confirmed that said user has purchased goods from said sales center based on said order number, giving said user a prescribed benefit,

wherein said sales center, said buy-back center and said user are interconnected by said network.

2. (currently amended) A method of buying back goods according to claim 1, further comprising steps of:

at said Website of said sales center on ~~[[a]]~~ said network, accepting an application for purchase of goods by directing said user to enter as input personal data of said user;

registering said personal data of said user that said sales center has directed said user to enter as input when applying for purchase and information relating to goods that said user purchased in correspondence with said order number in a user information database in said sales center;

registering in advance information on the particulars of a benefit that is to be given to said user by said sales center in an item information database in said sales center; and

obtaining, by said buy-back center, information relating to said user from said user information database and/or said item information database in said sales center based on said order number that said user is directed to enter as input when applying for buy-back.

3. (original) A method of buying back goods according to claim 2, further comprising steps of:

accepting an application for buy-back at a Website of said buy-back center by directing said user to enter as input both said order number and said personal data of said user;

transmitting by way of said network from said buy-back center to said sales center said order number and said personal data of said user that said user was directed to enter as input at the time of application for buy-back;

checking at said sales center for matching of said personal data that is registered in said user information database in

correspondence with said order number that was transmitted in from said buy-back center with said personal data that was transmitted in from said buy-back center; and

having confirmed that said personal data matches, obtaining at said sales center information relating to said user from said user information database and/or said item information database in said sales center and transmitting said obtained information to said buy-back center by way of said network.

4. (original) A method of buying back goods according to claim 3, wherein:

said information relating to said user is information relating to goods that said user has purchased that is registered in correspondence with said order number in said user information database in said sales center, and/or information on the particulars of a benefit that is to be given to said user that is registered in said item information database in said sales center.

5. (original) A method of buying back goods according to claim 3, wherein:

said buy-back center proceeds with a process of buying back a used item from said user only when said personal data of said user that said user was directed to enter as input when applying for buy-back matches said personal data of said user that is

registered in said user information database in said sales center.

6. (original) A method of buying back goods according to claim 4, wherein:

said particulars of the benefit that is given to said user vary according to the maker or model of the goods that said user purchases from said sales center and/or the used item that said buy-back center buys back from said user.

7. (original) A method of buying back goods according to claim 2, comprising steps wherein:

an application for buy-back is accepted by directing said user to enter as input personal data of said user together with said order number at the Website of said sales center;

said buy-back center directly accesses said user information database in said sales center by way of said network and checks whether said personal data that is registered in said user information database in said sales center in correspondence with said order number that said user was directed to enter as input when applying for buy-back matches said personal data that said user was directed to enter as input when applying for buy-back; and

said buy-back center, having confirmed that said personal data matches, directly accesses said user information database

and/or said item information database in said sales center by way of said network and obtains information relating to said user.

8. (original) A method of buying back goods according to claim 7, wherein:

said information relating to said user is information relating to goods that said user has purchased that is registered in correspondence with said order number in said user information database in said sales center, and/or information on the particulars of a benefit that is to be given to said user that is registered in said item information database in said sales center.

9. (original) A method of buying back goods according to claim 7, wherein:

said buy-back center proceeds with the process of buying back a used item from said user only when said personal data of said user that said user was directed to enter as input when applying for buy-back matches said personal data of said user that is registered in said user information database in said sales center.

10. (original) A method of buying back goods according to claim 2, further comprising steps wherein:

said order number that said user was directed to enter as input when applying for buy-back is transmitted from said buy-back center to said sales center by way of said network; and

said sales center, based on said order number that has been transmitted from said buy-back center, obtains information relating to said user from said user information database and/or said item information database in said sales center and transmits said obtained information relating to said user to said buy-back center by way of said network.

11. (original) A method of buying back goods according to claim 10, wherein:

said information relating to said user is: said personal data of said user and information relating to goods that said user has purchased that are registered in correspondence with said order number in said user information database in said sales center; and/or information on the particulars of a benefit that is to be given to said user that is registered in said item information database in said sales center.

12. (original) A method of buying back goods according to claim 11, wherein:

said particulars of the benefit that is given to said user vary according to the maker or model of the goods that said user

purchases from said sales center and/or the used item that said buy-back center buys back from said user.

13. (original) A method of buying back goods according to claim 2, further comprising a step wherein:

based on said order number that said user was directed to enter as input when applying for buy-back, said buy-back center directly accesses by way of said network said user information database and/or said item information database in said sales center to obtain information relating to said user.

14. (original) A method of buying back goods according to claim 13, wherein:

said information relating to said user is: said personal data of said user and information relating to goods that said user has purchased that are registered in correspondence with said order number in said user information database in said sales center; and/or information on the particulars of a benefit that is to be given to said user that is registered in said item information database in said sales center.

15. (original) A method of buying back goods according to claim 14, wherein:

said particulars of the benefit that is given to said user vary according to the maker or model of the goods that said user

purchases from said sales center and/or the used item that said buy-back center buys back from said user.

16. (original) A method of buying back goods according to claim 1, further comprising a step wherein:

said buy-back center simultaneously carries out a process of paying the buy-back price of a used item to said user and a process of giving a benefit to said user.

17. (original) A method of buying back goods according to claim 1, further comprising a step wherein:

said buy-back center, after completing the process of paying the buy-back price of a used item to said user, transmits to said sales center by way of said network buy-back results that include information relating to the used item that has been bought back from said user.

18. (currently amended) A system for buying back goods, comprising:

a sales center for marketing target goods; and

a buy-back center, being designated by said sales center to users that have purchased target goods, said buy-back center including a buy-back server for operating a Website on a network for accepting applications to buy back used items by directing said users to enter as input the order numbers of goods that said



users have purchased through said sales center, and for giving a prescribed benefit to users after confirming, based on said order number, that these users have purchased goods from said sales center,

wherein said sales center, said buy-back center and said users are interconnected by said network.

19. (original) A system for buying back goods according to claim 18, wherein:

said sales center includes a sales server that is equipped with:

means for operating a Website on said network for directing said users to enter as input personal data of said users and accepting applications to purchase goods; and

means for registering, in correspondence with said order number in a user information database in said sales center, said personal data of said users that said users are directed to enter as input when applying to purchase goods and information relating to goods that said users have purchased; and further, for registering in advance in an item information database in said sales center, information on the particulars of benefits that are to be given to said users;

and said buy-back server obtains information relating to said users from said user information database and/or said item information database in said sales center based on said order

numbers that said users are directed to enter as input when applying for buy-back.

20. (original) A system for buying back goods according to claim 19, wherein:

said buy-back server comprises:

site management means for managing a Website that directs said users to enter as input personal data of said users together with said order numbers and accepts applications for buy-back of used items; and

communication means for transmitting, to said sales server by way of said network, said order numbers and said personal data of said users that said users are directed to enter as input when applying for buy-back; and

said sales server comprises:

information management means for, after confirming that said personal data that is registered in said user information database in correspondence with said order numbers that have been transmitted in from said buy-back server matches personal data that has been transmitted in from said buy-back server, obtaining information relating to said users from said user information database and/or said item information database in said sales center; and

communication means for transmitting, to said buy-back server by way of said network, information relating to said users

that has been obtained by said information management means from said user information database and/or said item information database.

21. (original) A system for buying back goods according to claim 20, wherein:

said information relating to said users is information relating to goods that said users have purchased that is registered in correspondence with said order numbers in said user information database in said sales center, and/or information on the particulars of the benefits that are to be given to said users that is registered in said item information database in said sales center.

22. (original) A system for buying back goods according to claim 20, wherein:

the process of buying back used items from said users by means of said buy-back center proceeds only when said personal data of said users that said users have been directed to enter as input when applying for buy-back by at said buy-back center matches with said personal data of said users that is registered in said user information database in said sales center.

23. (original) A system for buying back goods according to claim 21, wherein:

said particulars of the benefits that are given to said users vary according to the maker or model of the goods that said users have purchase from said sales center and/or the used items that said buy-back center buys back from said users.

24. (original) A system for buying back goods according to claim 19, wherein said buy-back server comprises:

site management means for managing a Website that directs said users to enter as input personal data of said users together with said order numbers and accepts applications to buy back used items; and

information management means for directly accessing said user information database in said sales center by way of said network, and after confirming that said personal data that is registered in said user information database in correspondence with said order number that said user was directed to enter as input when applying to purchase goods matches said personal data that said user was directed to enter as input when applying for buy-back, for directly accessing said user information database and/or said item information database in said sales center by way of said network and obtaining information relating to said user.

25. (original) A system for buying back goods according to claim 24, wherein:

said information relating to said user is information relating to goods that said user has purchased that is registered in correspondence with said order number in said user information database in said sales center, and/or information on the particulars of the benefits that are to be given to said user that is registered in said item information database in said sales center.

26. (original) A system for buying back goods according to claim 24, wherein:

the process of buying back used items from said users by said buy-back center proceeds only when said personal data of said users that said users have been directed to enter as input when applying for buy-back at said buy-back center matches with said personal data of said users that is registered in said user information database in said sales center.

27. (original) A system for buying back goods according to claim 19, wherein:

said buy-back server comprises:

site management means for managing a Website that directs said users to enter as input said order number and accepts applications to buy back used items; and

communication means for transmitting, to said sales server by way of said network, said order numbers that said users were directed to enter as input when applying for buy-back; and

said sales server comprises:

information management means for obtaining, based on said order numbers that have been transmitted from said buy-back server, information relating to said users from said user information database and/or said item information database in said sales center; and

communication means for transmitting, to said buy-back server by way of said network, information relating to said users that has been obtained by said information management means from said user information database and/or said item information database.

28. (original) A system for buying back goods according to claim 27, wherein:

said information relating to said users is said personal data of said users and information relating to goods that said users have purchased that are registered in correspondence with said order numbers in said user information database in said sales center, and/or information on the particulars of the benefits that are to be given to said users that is registered in said item information database in said sales center.

29. (original) A system for buying back goods according to claim 28, wherein:

said particulars of benefits that are to be given to said users vary according to the maker or model of goods that said users have purchased from said sales center and/or the used items that said buy-back center buys back from said users.

30. (original) A system for buying back goods according to claim 19, wherein said buy-back server comprises:

site management means for managing a Website that directs said users to enter as input said order numbers and accepts applications to buy back used items; and

information management means for directly accessing said user information database and/or said item information database in said sales center by way of said network based on said order numbers that said users are directed to enter as input when applying for buy-back and obtaining information relating to said users.

31. (original) A system for buying back goods according to claim 30, wherein:

said information relating to said users is said personal data of said users and information relating to goods that said users have purchased that are registered in correspondence with said order numbers in said user information database in said

sales center, and/or information on the particulars of benefits that are to be given to said users that is registered in said item information database in said sales center.

32. (original) A system for buying back goods according to claim 31, wherein:

said particulars of benefits that are to be given to said users vary according to the maker or model of the goods that said users have purchased from said sales center and/or the used items that said buy-back center buys back from said users.

33. (original) A system for buying back goods according to claim 18, wherein:

said buy-back server includes means for simultaneously executing a process of paying the buy-back prices of used items to said users and a process of giving benefits to said users.

34. (original) A system for buying back goods according to claim 18, wherein:

said buy-back server includes means for transmitting, to said sales server by way of said network, results of buy-back that include information relating to the used items that have been bought back from said users after completing the process of paying the buy-back prices of the used items to said users.



35-47. (canceled)